

REMARKS

The Official Action dated March 5, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, the specification, abstract and claim 9, have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-11 are currently pending in the instant application. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

1. Indication of Allowability

Initially, Applicant wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 and 9-11 are allowed over the prior art of record, pending the rewriting of dependent claim 9 in independent form. As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitation of independent claim 8 from which it depends. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 and 9-11 are all now in proper condition for allowance.

2. Objection to the Specification

With respect to the objection to the specification, Applicant has corrected all informalities, as suggested by the Examiner, as well as set forth the specification in proper form in the attached substitute specification without adding new matter. In view of the amendments to the specification, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

3. Rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(c)

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) as being unpatentable over JP 2003-143799 to Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,367 issued to Tsuzaki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination proposed by the Examiner neither discloses or suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

That is, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claim 8 has been cancelled in favor of rewriting claim 9, which has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, in

independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that further discussion with respect to the rejection of claim 8 is no longer believed to be warranted.

4. Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the specification, abstract and claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-7 and 9-11 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Further, while no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4525.

Respectfully submitted,

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